



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Agenda, Sept. 13, 2010

Diversity Task Group
 Arlington Vision 2020

Monday, September 13, 2010 7:30 p.m.

NOTE DIFFERENT LOCATION: Senior Center, Art Room, 27 Maple St. *(corner Academy St. Use Maple St. Entrance & follow signs to Art Room)*

Agenda

- Introduction of new co-chair, Kaitlyn O'Connell
- Welcome & Introductions
- New Open Meeting Law Requirements: Someone to Take Minutes
- Report of the Committee to Increase the Diversity Among Town Meeting Members
 - Survey methods & results
 - Recommendations
- Brainstorming Plans for Outreach Strategies To Increase the Diversity Among Town Meeting Members and Members of Arlington Committees
 - Creation of a sub-group to develop strategies and a timeline
- Increasing the Diversity among Diversity Task Group Members
 - Discussion of Potential Strategies
- Diversity Task Group Display at Arlington Town Day: Saturday, September 25
 - We need volunteers to staff the display in shifts from 9:30am to 3:00pm.
 - We need volunteers to contact people who sign up for our mailing list
- Should we organize a program similar to this one?

HUMAN RIGHTS FAR & NEAR:~ KNOWING YOUR NEIGHBORS

Watertown held a panel discussion about human rights abuses that residents in Watertown and neighboring communities have undergone in their home countries.~All the panelists have fled their homelands because of persecution. They told their personal stories, explained how they have turned their experiences into positive contributions to Watertown and beyond.~Included are: the terrifying drug cartel in Columbia, the horrors of the Civil War and Genocide in Sierra Leone, and the persecution of Baha'is in Iran.~ The program was sponsored by The World in Watertown, the Watertown/Belmont Group of Amnesty International, and the Arsenal Center for the Arts. ~

- Facebook page by Kaitlyn O'Connell, a member of the Diversity Task Group: "Residents of the Town of Arlington, MA". Focus is on Diversity in Arlington. Everyone is encouraged to become a "fan."
- Encouraging Civil Discourse in Arlington on Controversial Issues. How Can Groups Like Ours with an Interest in Diversity Facilitate Respectful Discussions?

- Other Business

For more information or suggestions, please feel free to contact either of the co-chairs: Kaitlyn O'Connell, 617-513-1883, kaitlyn.oconnell@aicum.org; Miriam Stein, 781-648-0255, miriam.stein@comcast.net

Future meetings: **2010**: October 18; November 8; December 13. **2011**: January 10; February 15; March 14; April 11; May 10; June 13. All these meetings will be at the Jefferson Cutter House, lower level, in Arlington Center. Enter through the parking lot.

The goal of the Diversity Task Group, set by Town Meeting, is: "We value the diversity of our population. Our Town's mix of ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds, as well as economic and personal circumstances, enriches us all. We will be known for the warm welcome and respect we extend to all."